(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and how much more time it will take?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (b) Benefit of restructuring has been extended to almost all the reservation staff except a few cases where disciplinary proceeding is under process. In respect of medical staff, restructuring has been implemented in all categories, wherever due, except in the category of Safaiwala which is under process.

Face list of Railways Retiring Rooms

3746. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

Will the Menister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give a face lift to retiring rooms at important railway stations which are in bad shape and privatise the retiring rooms to hotels to run them; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Improvement to Retiring rooms is a continuous process. Efforts are made by the Railways to ensure provision of amenities and proper maintenance and upkeep of retiring rooms at stations. Inspections are conducted by the railway authorities and the deficiencies made good wherever notified. There is no proposal for privatising the retiring rooms at present.

Meeting of Indo-Japanese railway working group

3747. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state-

(a) the outcome of the 6th Meeting of the Indo-Japanese railway working group held in New Delhi, recently; and

(b) whether Government have sought Japanese Cooperation in special training courses for Indian Railway officials in operation and maintenance?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) The 6th Meeting of Indo-Japan Railway working Group was held in New Delhi from 28th February to 6th March, 1995. Indian side sought Japanese cobperation in special training courses for Indian Railwayy officials in operation and maintnance of 2x25 KV Electric Traction system, 3 phase drive equipment in 25 KV AC BG EMUs,1500 KV DC EMUs, track & bridge technology, maintenance system for Calcutta Metro and noise level reduction maasures for metro railway Including consultancy and studies.

The Japanese side agreed for inclusion of som of the Indian Railway Officials in various group training courses for 1995-96 and 1996-97. The Japanese side will indicate the data and programme of such courses.

Losses of railways in transporation of goods

3748. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to ascertain as to why Government are incurring loss of earnings in transportation of goods by Railways; and

(b) if so, the total amount earned during the last three years and the quantum of goods transporation during this period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) There is no overall loss of earnings in transportation of goods. However, the railways are incurring losses in transportation of certain essential commodities carried below cost of operation to meet social obligations.

(b) The details of quantum of traffic and the earnings therefrom for the last three years are given below:

Year	Tonne (million)	Earning (Rs. in Crores)
1992-93 . . .	350.00	10903.04
1993-94 . . .	358.73	12557.36
1994-95 (Prov.) .	373.00	13700.00

Handing over of Railway Vending stalls to private contractors

3749. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to hand over vending stalls and hotels on railway stations to private contractors has been implemented; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such contracts given during the last one years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) As per extent policy all new catering/vending units are being awarded to reputed and professional caterers in the private sector.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Introduction of Rail Bus Services

3750. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Railways have planned to introduce rail bus services in 9 additional sectors in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the sectors where rail buses are to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Depending upon their availability, it is proposed to introduce Rail Bus service on the following sectors;

(i) Gwalior-Panihar

(ii) Pandabeswar-Palasthali

(iii) Bikaner-Kolayat

(iv) Mankapur-Katra

(v) Bangarapet-Marikuppam

(vi) Hospet-Kotturu

(vii) Hospet-Swamihalli

(viii) Bobbili-Salur

(ix) Nadiad-Kapadvanj

Raising money from public for executing projects

3751. SHRI GUNLAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have raised money from public for executing some of the major railway projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?